

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

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R 120707Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5932

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14705

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CB, VN

SUBJECT: KHMER IN 29TH UNGA: COMMUNIST ATTITUDES

REF: A. USUN 4747 (NOTAL) B. TOKYO 14576 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NHAN DAN EDITOR PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR PRO-GRUNK RES AT 29TH UNGA BECAUSE SOME GRUNK SUPPORTERS ARE SKEPTICAL OF WISDOM OF GIVING UN SEAT TO GOVT-IN-EXILE. SECONDLY, ACCORDING TO EDITOR, PLANS (ASEAN RES) ARE AFOOT TO SHELVE KHMER ISSUE AT CURRENT SESSION. GOJ FONOFF WONDERS IF HANOI'S PESSIMISM MAY NOT BE TACTICAL TO HELP DEFER GRUNK SUCCESS AT UN UNTIL KHIEU SAMPHAN, NOT SIHANOUK, WILL ENJOY VICTORY AT NEW YORK. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER DINING WITH YOMIURI JOURNALIST NAGAI, WHO AUTHORED OCT 29 ARTICLE ON NORTH VIETNAMESE PESSIMISM ABOUT PRO-GRUNK RES IN UNGA, FONOFF FIRST SE ASIA DIV DIRECTOR HANABUSA PROVIDED US FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF ARTICLE'S BACKGROUND. NAGAI'S SOURCE WAS HOANG TUNG, EDITOR OF NHAN DAN. TUNG, OSTENSIBLY, ACQUIRED CONFIDENTIAL

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PESSIMITIC ASSESSMENT OF CHANCES FOR PRO-GRUNK RES

FROM EAST EUROPEAN UN SOURCES. PESSIMISM WAS BASED ON TWO FACTORS: A) AMONG COUNTRIES WHO VOTED FOR GRUNK AT 28TH UNGA, MANY DID SO AS COURTESY TO SIHANOUK AND WERE SURPRISED AT LARGE NUMBER OF VOTES RES OBTAINED. ALTHOUGH THESE COUNTRIES MAY SUPPORT GRUNK, MANY QUESTION WISDOM OF SEATING A HEAD OF STATE OF GOVERNMENT EXILED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. SUCH COUNTRIES MAY ABSTAIN ON PRO-GRUNK RES IN CURRENT SESSION. B) MOVE TO SHELVE KHMER ISSUE AT CURRENT UNGA (ASEAN RES) IS CGAINING AD# HERENTS. NAGAI QUOTED GRUNK CHARGE IN HANOI HAVING ESTIMATED CHANCES AT EIGHTY PERCENT FAVORABLE FOR GRUNK RES. SOVIET JOURNALISTS IN HANOI, HOWEVER, SPLIT ON CHANCES FOR SUCCESS.

2. DESPITE REASONS CITED, NAGAI HAD IMPRESSION NORTH VIETNAMESE MIGHT NOT FAVOR ADOPTION OF PRO-GRUNK RES AT THIS UNGA SESSION. IN SAME VEIN, HANABUSA WOULD NOT RULE OUT THAT PESSIMISM WAS TACTICAL MANEUVER ON HANOI'S PART TO HELP ENSURE THAT RES DID NOT SUCCEED. HANABUSA REASONED THAT HANOI (AND MOSCOW AS WELL) SUPPORT KMER ROUGE AND KHIEU SAMPHAN. VICTORY AT THIS STAGE WOULD INSTALL SIHANOUK IN UN AND ENHANCE HIS POSITION AT EXPENSE OF KHMER ROUGE. VICTORY WOULD ALSO INCREASE PRC INFLUENCE IN UN AND KHMER, A DEVELOPMENT HANOI, WHOSE RELATIONS WITH PEKING ARE STRAINED, WOULD NOT WELCOME. HANABUSA SUSPECTS THAT THE HANOI-MOSCOW AXIS WISHES TO DEFER GRUNK SUCCESS IN UNGA UNTILL BENEFITS WILL BE REALIZED BY THEIR ALLIES UNDER KHIEU SAMPHAN AND NOT BY SIHANOUK AND PEKING.

3. COMMENT: HANABUSA'S MACHIAVELLIAN TENDENCIES NOTWITHSTANDING, MUTED SOVIET AND EE SUPPORT OF GRUNK AT UN AND FLIRTATION WITH ASEAN RES EVIDENT AMONG SOME EES DURING US AND JAPANESE DEMARCHES ON KHMER ISSUE MAY REFLECT CLEAVAGE BETWEEN HANOI-MOSCOW AND PEKING ON KHMER.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEMBERSHIP, PRESS COMMENTS, COMMUNISTS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION IO  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. USUN 4747 (NOTAL) B. TOKYO 14576, (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <11 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KHMER IN 29TH UNGA: COMMUNIST ATTITUDES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CB, VN, UNGA, GRUNK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005